

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:)
Enrique Nieves-Vazquez) Group Art Unit:
Serial No.:) Confirmation No.:
(National Phase of PCT/US2004/042099 filed)
December 16, 2004) Examiner:
Filed: (herewith)) Customer No.: 27128
For: HOPPER WITH FLOW) Attorney Docket:
CONTROLLER/ENHANCER FOR)
CONTROLLING THE GRAVITATIONAL)
FLOW OF GRANULAR MATERIAL)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, Applicant hereby makes of record the references set out on the attached form PTO/SB/08A.

A copy of the foreign patent documents is enclosed.

Items 1 to 7 of the references are those cited in the International Search Report of the international application from which this application is derived. Items 8 to 12 are references cited in a search report issued in respect of the corresponding European application. A copy of this report is also enclosed which indicates the relevance of the two non-English language documents.

In re the application of:
Enrique Nieves-Vazquez
For: HOPPER WITH FLOW CONTROLLER/ENHANCER FOR CONTROLLING
THE GRAVITATIONAL FLOW OF GRANULAR MATERIAL

- Page 2 -

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, and Applicant reserves the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish otherwise. Moreover, Applicant does not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered by the Examiner and that the references be made of record and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,



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16 Jun 06
Date

Enclosures
94051-4 7RDF:bw



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	DE 85 13 987 U1 (EBRO-ARMATUREN GEBR. BROEER GMBH, 5800 HAGEN, DE) 8 August 1985 (1985-08-08) * page 1, line 1 - line 4; claim 1; figure 1 *	1-4, 12, 17	B65G11/00
Y		5, 6, 15	
A		18	
X	US 4 361 254 A (TERAOKU ET AL) 30 November 1982 (1982-11-30)	1, 2, 4, 17	
A	* column 2, line 44 - line 57; figures 1, 2 *	18	
Y	DE 567 267 C (ZEITZER EISENGIESSEREI; MASCHINENBAU-AKT.-GES) 30 December 1932 (1932-12-30)	5, 6	
A	* page 1, line 55 - page 2, line 21; figure 1 *	1, 18	
Y	US 3 124 170 A (F.D.COOPER) 10 March 1964 (1964-03-10) * figure 3 *	15	
A	US 4 157 148 A (WHITE, GILBERT H) 5 June 1979 (1979-06-05) * abstract; figure 1 *	1, 18	B65D TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
4	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	The Hague	20 March 2006	Zanghi, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

Complete if Known**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

of 1

Application Number

Filing Date

(Filed herewith)

First Named Inventor

Enrique Nieves-Vazquez

Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
Number-Kind Code ² (if known)					
1	US-	1,047,316	12.17.1912	Sloka	
2	US-	3,081,009	03.12.1963	Cooper	
3	US-	3,257,073	06.21.1966	Steimel	
4	US-	4,342,532	08.03.1982	Voegele	
5	US-	4,367,848	01.11.1983	Ehmke et al.	
6	US-	6,493,605 B1	12.10.2002	Prideaux et al.	
7	US-	6,742,679 B2	06.01.2004	Martin	
8	US-	3,124,170	03.10.1964	Cooper	
9	US-	4,157,148	06.05.1979	White	
10	US-	4,361,254	11.30.1982	Teraoku et al.	
	US-				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear
Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)					
11	DE	567 267 C	12.30.1932	Zeitzer Eisengiesserei;	
12	DE	85 13 987 U1	08.08.1985	Ebro-Armaturen Gebr. Broer GmbH	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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